

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/926,029
Response to Office Action dated March 19, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-3 have been withdrawn from consideration and claim 8 has been amended. No new claims have been added.

In the Office Action mailed March 19, 2007, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite.

Accordingly, claim 8 has been amended to correct the noted instance of indefiniteness and the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner also maintained from the previous Office Action the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 8-10 as unpatentable over Watanabe in view of Thorton and Haraguchi et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

None of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggests that the radial depth of the recesses is a majority of the thickness of said wall of said shaft member, as shown in FIG. 8 of the instant application. Watanabe clearly shows that the notches barely penetrate the wall of the shaft and do not extend to the majority of the thickness.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Accordingly, claim 8 has been amended to recite this distinction.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 8-10, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

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